

Message Text

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61

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00

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R 271410Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7189

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS OUAGADOUGOU 2231

AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: PROPOSED BERGER STUDY ON ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF
DROUGHT

REF: A) NIAMEY 3236; B) ABIDJAN 7282; C) STATE 217415

1. AS DESCRIBED IN ABIDJAN 7282, PROPOSED STUDY SOUNDS
LIKE A PRIMARILY STATISTICAL SURVEY WHICH WOULD RESULT
IN VARIOUS STATISTICAL SERIES. IF THIS IS WHAT IT IS,
WE QUESTION WHETHER STUDY NEEDED. BELIEVE WE DO NOT
NEED REHASH OF STATISTICS WHICH MOSTLY EITHER UNRELIABLE
OR ALREADY AVAILABLE.

2. TOPICS LISTED FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION INCLUDE SOME
GOOD IDEAS, BUT WE QUESTION WHETHER QUICK SIX-COUNTRY
SURVEY WILL COVER THEM IN DEPTH NEEDED TO BE USEFUL.

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FOR EXAMPLE, TOPIC B(1) AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK

PRODUCTION IS FIELD WHERE FEW MEANINGFUL FIGURES CAN BE DEVELOPED WITHOUT SERIOUS AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS PROJECTS. ITEM B(9) RE FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES NEEDS FULL-SCALE FEASIBILITY STUDY OF WHAT CAN BE DONE TO OVERCOME HIGH COST FACTORS IN INLAND STATES, RATHERN THAN REVIEW OF CONSUMPTION STATISTICS. SIMILAR OBSERVATIONS COULD BE MADE CONCERNING OTHER ELEMENTS OF PROPOSED STUDY.

3. AS MAURICE WILLIAMS SAID WHEN HERE, SAHEL IS NOT AREA IN WHICH GOOD DEVELOPMENT TREND WAS KNOCKED FOR A LOOP AND NEEDS BE REESTABLISHED; INSTEAD IT IS AREA WHOSE BASIC DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS ARE LONGSTANDING AND WHERE SATISFACTORY UPWARD TREND HAS YET TO BE CREATED. HENCE, WHILE VALUE OF STATISTICS FOR LONG-RUN PLANNING IS EVIDENT, WE QUESTION BENEFIT OF ATTEMPTING COMPARE EXTRAPOLATIONS OF PRE-DROUGHT DATA ("WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN") WITH ACTUAL DATA FOR RECENT YEARS.EASUM

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